

credit for the gifts. For nineteen years, he made sure that not one child in his community went without a Christmas gift.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph Jurkulak will certainly be missed by his family and community. He dedicated his retired life to bringing smiles to youngsters throughout Glenwood Springs. I extend my deepest regrets and warmest regards to Joseph's family and friends during this time of mourning.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. ROEMER, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. SCOTT for their hard work and willingness to work together to find a common ground on the Juvenile Justice Bill which includes an important crime study provision.

The crime study provision, which I offered during subcommittee mark-up, directs the National Institute of Justice to conduct a crime study on gun violence-related injuries and deaths by youth in schools and communities.

This study focuses on the relationship between victims and violent youth; the criminal act and location; and details about the firearm used in the crime.

The purpose of this provision is to examine this data and develop new ways to prevent violence in our schools.

Today school violence is reported simply as an act of violence. There is not a focus on what kind of firearm was used; or if there was a relationship between the victim and the culprit.

Let's be honest here, when kids are killing kids—we should be doing everything we can to prevent it. We should be figuring out the links between violent acts so we can put measures in place to stop them. A very real and easy way to prevent these tragedies is to see what is happening where and when.

If we continue to turn a blind eye to violence in our schools we will never be able to put an end to their violence.

Our children need and deserve to feel safe in their schools. Let's work together and give them back their schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this important provision as part of the Juvenile Justice bill and I urge all my colleagues to support the overall bill.

“THE TRUE AMERICA”

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, last week, our country, this community, was struck by tragedy. We lost family and friends, firefighters and police, loved ones and heroes. For our families, we offer our prayers. For President Bush, Major Giuliani, and Governor Pataki, we

offer our thanks. For the cowards who committed these atrocities, we submit our resolve.

On Friday, the President asked me to join with him at ground zero. In the wreckage of the World Trade Center, we saw a place of war . . . but also a place of great hope.

We saw, we smelled, we heard the signs of war: twisted metal . . . shattered windows . . . acrid, smoking ruins. As our Air Force jet passed, the clouds were low, and smoke billowed from the wreckage below, casting a gray shroud over lower Manhattan.

But amidst the devastation, we also saw the signs of the true America.

As our motorcade drove slowly down the west side highway, the clouds broke, and the sun shined brightly on the Statue of Liberty, reflecting the very best of our country.

Amidst the devastation, rescue workers planted small American flags, in their battered helmets.

They were weary from digging to save lives for three days, yet still able to raise their arms high and shout, “USA, USA, USA” when our President arrived.

I met our neighbors—one from East Islip, the other from Huntington Station—who had been working in that rubble since the calamity struck, defiantly insisting on hope with every brick they moved. I salute them and all of our unsung heroes who continue to provide comfort in a time of tragedy and save lives in a time of war.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is the America that was in my mind later that night, after I returned to Washington, and voted to give our President the authority he needs to protect the freedoms we hold so dear, the freedoms our Constitution offers us in its very first words, the Preamble:

“To establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.”

We didn't choose this fight. It chose us. And now we have no choice but to respond for the lives lost . . . and to preserve a uniquely American way of life:

Americans saw blood . . . and then lined up for hours to give it.

We saw disaster . . . but not defeat.

We felt fear . . . but now we join together in faith.

Our American democracy built by Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Lincoln will not be weakened by cowardly terrorists.

As Alexis de Touquville said over a century ago: “Americans are great—because they are good.” And we know well that good always triumphs over evil.

Ladies and gentlemen, that night, when I cast my vote on the Floor of the House to authorize the use of force, I was conscious of all these things.

And I was aware of the fact that sixty years before, from that very same place, President Roosevelt summoned America into a monumental crusade against evil. We remember his speech, calling that day one of “infamy.” But I want to leave you with other words he proclaimed in the very same speech:

“With confidence in our armed forces—with unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God.”

We triumphed then. We will triumph now. So help us God.

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 TRAGEDY
IN AMERICA

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, since September 11, we are solemnly reminded each day what it means to be a firefighter. Like so many others in public life they serve the community, but they do so at great risk of peril to their own health and lives.

So I am particularly pleased and proud to rise today in recognition of the careers of two distinguished firefighters from Sterling Heights, Michigan upon their retirement and as they embark upon a new phase of their lives.

Captain Kerry Wolgast began his firefighting career in Sterling Heights in 1979. Since then, he has obtained numerous certifications ranging from Hazardous Materials First Responder to Terrorism Awareness. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1994, and then to Captain in January of this year. He retired on September 17, 2001. Fire Inspector Andy Wallace began his career in Sterling Heights in 1980. Inspector Wallace has also obtained numerous certifications ranging from Criminal Justice Training to Fire and Arson investigation. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1995 and Fire Inspector in 1997. He will retire on January 16, 2002.

We are grateful for the service Captain Wolgast and Inspector Wallace have provided the community and citizens of Sterling Heights over their long careers. Both have served the public well and have received letters of thanks and commendation from the community in response.

I send to them and to their families my best wishes for a healthy, happy and productive retirement.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ARME-
NIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Armenia's independence from the Soviet Union. This anniversary marks an important turning point for Armenia and an opportunity to highlight the U.S.-Armenia relationship. As our country continues to mourn the victims of last Tuesday's tragic attacks, so too do the Armenian people. Armenian President Robert Kocharian expressed his condolences to President Bush along with an offer to send experienced rescue workers to help the relief efforts in New York and at the Pentagon. The government of Armenia also pledged to support America's anti-terrorist campaign.

Since the dawn of history, Armenians have held to their land despite repeated occupations, oppression and genocide. They have retained their distinct heritage, language, culture and religion. In fact, this year Armenia—the first Christian nation—celebrates its 1700th anniversary of Christianity and as part of the celebration, the Pope will visit Armenia.